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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Robert E. Williams of Chicago on Saturday, June 19, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was born in Chicago on April 4, 1921, to Robert and Jenny Williams; he attended John D. Shoop School, graduated from Morgan Park High School, and graduated from Herzl City College and the Worsham College of Mortuary Science; in 1944, he received his professional funeral director license; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was united in marriage with Mattie B. Robinson on June 7, 1953; they had one daughter, Joanne Jewel Williams; she preceded him in death; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Williams earned the distinction of being the first African American in the City of Chicago to build his own funeral home when he opened The Williams Chapel at Bishop and 111th Street and celebrated 50 years of service to the people of Chicago on July 19, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was a 50-year member of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association as well as a member of the Cook County Association of Funeral Home Owners; he was active in the Beth Eden Baptist Church as a member of the choir and teacher of the senior adult class in the Department of Religious Education; he previously served his church in the capacity of chairman of the Board of Deacons; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was a past worshipful master of Monarch Lodge #99 F&AM, a member of the Western Consistory #28 Ancient Acceptance Scottish Rite Free Masonry, the past president of the Morgan Park Civic League, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Morgan Park Savings and Loan

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1 Association; and

2 WHEREAS, The passing of Robert E. Williams has been deeply
3 felt by many, especially his wife, Mattie; his grandchildren,
4 Robyn M. Cramer and Damian Cramer; and his great-grandchildren,
5 William Martin and Simon Martin; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Robert E. Williams, and we extend our sincere condolences to
9 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Robert E. Williams as an expression
13 of our deepest sympathy.